

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and these remarks are in response to the Final Office Action dated November 25, 2009. This amendment is timely filed.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-18, 20-22, 24, 25 and 27 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-18, 21, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, in particular because the amendments made to claims 1 and 15 were alleged to add matter. Claims 1-18, 20-22, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over German Patent No. 3314718 to Knoll in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,135,681 to Nuzzi et al. and U.S. Patent No. 3,199,381 to Mackey. Claim 27 is allowed.

Claims 1, 3, 15-18, and 20 are cancelled herein. The remaining claims have been made dependent upon allowed claim 27, and are therefore all also allowable.

Applicants have made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is thus believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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